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# LINDSAY LIGHT II/ OU3 NORTH MCCLURG COURT SITE

## ENVIRONMENTAL FACT SHEET

Prepared by Piper Marbury Rudnick & Wolfe for distribution at a Public Meeting on  
June 27, 2001 at the Best Western Inn of Chicago, 162 East Ohio Street, Chicago, Illinois

Chicago, Illinois

June 2001

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide community residents and other interested individuals with information concerning a planned time-critical removal action at the Lindsay Light II/Operable Unit 3 North McClurg Court site (OU3 Site). In particular, this fact sheet provides a brief overview of planned cleanup activities with contacts for additional information.

### LINDSAY LIGHT BACKGROUND

Lindsay Light & Chemical Company (Lindsay Light) was a former maker of incandescent gas mantles for lighting. Lindsay Light operated in the Streeterville area of Chicago, Illinois from approximately 1904 until 1936, when it moved to West Chicago, Illinois. The manufacture of incandescent gas mantles at Lindsay Light involved extraction and use of thorium, which is a radioactive material.

In 1994, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identified radiological impacts on the former Lindsay Light site located at 316 East Illinois Street and the owner of the property agreed to investigate the site. After the investigation was completed, in 1996, EPA ordered the property owner and corporate successor to Lindsay

Light to clean up the contaminated soils at that location. In 2000, EPA discovered thorium contamination in a former parking lot across the street along the 200 block of Columbus Drive. EPA then amended its 1996 order to include the Columbus Drive property and the owner of the Columbus Drive property. Also, in Spring 2000 the owner of the OU3 Site told EPA that it had identified thorium contamination on its property. EPA then notified the recipients of the 1996 order that they were obligated, under the terms of that order, to investigate and cleanup the contamination at the newly discovered OU3 Site. The EPA has also identified other areas in Streeterville that contain radiologically impacted soils believed to be associated with the former operation of Lindsay Light.

### LINDSAY LIGHT II/OU3 NORTH MCCLURG COURT SITE PROPOSED CLEANUP

The OU3 Site is located at 341 East Ohio Street in Chicago, Illinois. The approximately 2.16 acre lot is located at the northwest corner of McClurg Court and East Grand Avenue directly across the street from the former Lindsay Light facilities located at 316 East Illinois Street. Radioactive materials have been identified on the OU3 Site by private parties through subsurface

borings and by the EPA through a scanner van survey. A time-critical removal action will be performed to remove the radioactive materials in excess of EPA's cleanup standard from the OU3 Site.

In response to the EPA's determinations concerning the OU3 Site, a Removal Action Work Plan for removal of the radiologically impacted soils from the OU3 Site has been submitted to the EPA for its review and approval. Copies of the Removal Action Work Plan have also been made available to the public and to specific interested parties.

#### **MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE WORK PLAN**

The time-critical removal action for the OU3 Site will include several features to remove all radiologically impacted materials above EPA cleanup levels. The entire OU3 Site will be laid out on a grid. Known areas of radiological contamination will then be removed. Once the known areas of radiological contamination have been removed for off-site disposal, all or substantially all of the remainder of the OU3 Site will be excavated in approximately 18 inch lifts down to the lower of native sands or levels where radiological levels are below EPA's cleanup standard. The excavation lifts will be screened for radiological contamination, and any materials in excess of EPA's radiological cleanup standard will be removed. A staged approach dividing the OU3 Site into four phases for the screening will be used in order to manage the project. Comprehensive dust and traffic control plans will be used to minimize disturbance to residents of the area. Additional subsurface soil samples will be collected in July 2001. Excavation activities are

expected to be commenced in late August 2001.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

If you have questions about the information in this fact sheet or would like additional information about the OU3 Site, please contact one of the parties listed below.

Piper Marbury Rudnick & Wolfe  
203 North LaSalle Street - Suite 1800  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
Attention: Timothy Ramsey  
(312) 368-4066  
timothy.ramsey@piperrudnick.com

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60605  
Attention: Derrick Kimbrough,  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
(312) 886-9749  
kimbrough.derrick@epa.gov

Documents relating to the OU3 Site are available at the following locations:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
Lindsay Light Administrative Record  
Superfund Records Center -- 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Harold Washington Public Library  
Lindsay Light Information Repository  
400 South State Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Additional information about the Lindsay Light sites can be found at the following web site: [www.epa.gov/region5/lindsaylight](http://www.epa.gov/region5/lindsaylight)